

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) A size-adjustable in-line skate comprising:
a frame that rotatably supports a plurality of wheels;
a substantially rigid base attached to the frame, the base defining a platform and a heel cup;
a semirigid toe cup that is attachable to the base, the toe cup having a floor portion having a length and a width, wherein the floor portion is adjacent to the base platform when the toe cup is attached to the base, a sidewall extending upwardly from at least a portion of the floor portion, and a slit extending along a length of the floor portion, the slit having a transverse dimension characterizing the width of the slit;
wherein the width of the toe cup may be adjusted by elastically deforming the toe cup such that the transverse dimension of the slit changes; and
an upper that is adapted to cover the foot of a user, the upper being fixedly attached to the base and to the toe cup.
2. (Original) The in-line skate of Claim 1, wherein the upper comprises a rearward portion that is attached to the base and a forward portion that is attached to the toe cup, and further wherein the toe cup slidably engages the floor portion of the base such that the length of the skate is adjustable.
3. (Original) The in-line skate of Claim 2, wherein the width of the toe cup is determined by the adjustable length of the skate.
4. (Original) The in-line skate of Claim 2, wherein the base further comprises an upwardly extending tab member and the toe cup further comprises an angled slot that is adapted to slidably receive the tab member, such that slidably adjusting the toe cup relative to the base will cause the transverse dimension of the slit in the toe cup to change.
5. (Original) The in-line skate of Claim 4, wherein the tab member is T-shaped in cross section, and the angled slot is T-shaped in cross section such that the angled slot slidably captures the tab member.
6. (Original) The in-line skate of Claim 4, wherein the base includes an upwardly extending longitudinal rail having a T-shaped cross section, the rail having a plurality of indents along at least one side, and further wherein the toe cup includes a T-shaped slot that slidably

engages the rail, the toe cup further comprising a transverse engagement member that selectively engages at least one of the plurality of indents along the rail to lock the toe cup longitudinally with respect to the base.

7. (Original) The in-line skate of Claim 2, wherein the skate further comprises an ankle cuff.

8. (Original) The in-line skate of Claim 7, wherein the ankle cuff is pivotally attached to the heel cup.

9. (Original) The in-line skate of Claim 2, wherein the floor further comprises a locking tab and the toe cup further comprises at least one rearwardly extending hook member that engages the locking tab.

10. (Withdrawn) The in-line skate of Claim 2, wherein the toe cup further comprises a transversely mounted adjustment screw that extends through the slit in the toe cup and is operable to adjust the transverse dimension of the slit.

11. (Original) A size-adjustable skate comprising:
a frame that rotatably support a plurality of wheels, the frame including a substantially horizontal platform and a heel cup;

a semirigid toe cup that is attachable to the platform, the toe cup having a floor, a sidewall extending upwardly from the floor, and a slit extending from a back edge of the floor along most of the length of the floor, the slit having an adjustable width;

wherein the width of the toe cup may be adjusted by elastically deforming the toe cup such that the width of the slit changes; and

an upper that is adapted to cover the foot of a user, the upper being fixedly attached to the base and to the toe cup.

12. (Original) The skate of Claim 11, wherein the upper comprises a rearward portion that is attached to the heel cup and a separable forward portion that is attached to the toe cup, and further wherein the toe cup slidably engages the floor such that the length of the skate is adjustable.

13. (Original) The skate of Claim 12, wherein the width of the slit is determined by the adjustable length of the skate.

14. (Original) The skate of Claim 12, wherein the platform further comprises an upwardly extending tab member and the toe cup further comprises an angled slot that is adapted to slidably engage the tab member, such that slidably adjusting the toe cup relative to the platform will cause the transverse dimension of the slit in the toe cup to change.

15. (Original) The skate of Claim 14, wherein the tab member is T-shaped in cross section and the angled slot is T-shaped in cross section, such that the angled slot slidably captures the tab member.

16. (Original) The skate of Claim 14, wherein the platform includes an upwardly extending longitudinal rail having a T-shaped cross section, the rail having a plurality of indents along at least one side, and further wherein the toe cup includes a T-shaped slot that slidably engages the rail, the toe cup further comprising a transverse engagement member that selectively engages at least one of the plurality of indents along the rail to lock the toe cup longitudinally with respect to the platform.

17. (Original) The skate of Claim 12, wherein the skate further comprises an ankle cuff.

18. (Original) The skate of Claim 17, wherein the ankle cuff is pivotally attached to the heel cup.

19. (Original) The skate of Claim 12, wherein the platform further comprises a locking tab and the toe cup further comprises at least one rearwardly extending hook member that engages the locking tab.

20. (Withdrawn) The skate of Claim 12, wherein the toe cup further comprises a transversely mounted adjustment screw that extends through the slit in the toe cup and is operable to adjust the width of the slit.

21. (Original) A size-adjustable skate comprising:
a frame;
a plurality of wheels rotatably journaled in the frame;
a substantially rigid base integrally formed with the frame, the base defining a forward platform and a rearward heel cup;

a semirigid toe cup that is removably attachable to the base, the toe cup having a floor, wherein the floor is adjacent to the forward platform when the toe cup is attached to the base, and a slit extending along most of the length of the floor, the slit having an adjustable width;

wherein the width of the toe cup may be adjusted by elastically deforming the toe cup such that the transverse dimension of the slit changes; and

a two-piece upper that is adapted to cover the foot of a user, the upper having a toe portion that is fixedly attached to the toe cup and a rearward portion that is fixedly attached to the heel cup.

22. (Original) An in-line skate having a longitudinal direction, the skate comprising:
a frame adapted to rotatably support a plurality of wheels;
a lateral base attached to the frame, the base defining a platform and a heel cup;
a toe cup having a floor portion with slit extending therealong in a generally longitudinal direction, the slit having a transverse width dimension; the toe cup being longitudinally slidingly engaged with the base;

a mating slot and pin, the slot being located on one of the toe cup and the base, the slot being located on the other of the toe cup and the base; the slot being oriented such that as the toe cup is slid away from the heel cup, the width of the slit increases thereby enlarging the overall width of the toe cup; and

an upper adapted to support a foot and connected to the base and the toe cup.

23. (Currently amended) The skate according to Claim 22, wherein the pin is located on an upper surface of the platform and the slot is located on the lower surface of the toe cup.

~~a frame;~~

~~a plurality of wheels rotatably journaled in the frame;~~

~~a substantially rigid base integrally formed with the frame, the base defining a forward platform and a rearward heel cup;~~

~~a semirigid toe cup that is removably attachable to the base, the toe cup having a floor, wherein the floor is adjacent to the forward platform when the toe cup is attached to the base, and a slit extending along most of the length of the floor, the slit having an adjustable width;~~

~~wherein the width of the toe cup may be adjusted by elastically deforming the toe cup such that the transverse dimension of the slit changes; and~~

~~a two piece upper that is adapted to cover the foot of a user, the upper having a toe portion that is fixedly attached to the toe cup and a rearward portion that is fixedly attached to the heel cup.~~

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